

Remarks

This is in response to the Election/Restriction Requirement mailed September 18, 2006. Pursuant to the subject action, restriction to prosecute one of the following groups of claims is required:

- Group I: Claims 1-17 drawn to a pledget device
- Group II: Claims 18-29 drawn to a method for improving hemostasis
- Group III: Claims 30-47 drawn to a surgical staple device.

Pursuant to the restriction requirement, Applicants herein elect to prosecute the claims of Group I, claims 1-17, drawn to a pledget device. Claims 18-47 have been cancelled.

In addition to the above restriction requirement, consistent with the election to prosecute the invention of Group I, a requirement to elect one of the following species has also been raised:

- Species I, shown in FIGS. 72, 75, and 76
- Species II, shown in FIGS. 73, 74
- Species III, shown in FIG. 77

Applicants herein provisionally elect Species I, shown in FIGS. 72, 75, and 76 for prosecution at this time. Claims 1, 2, and 5-17 are believed to read on the elected species. In view of the foregoing elections, claims 3 and 4 have been withdrawn. Applicants respectfully request that the withdrawn claims be maintained in the application to provide for the possibility of an allowable generic claim.

Finally, independent claim 1 has been amended herein. Support for the amendment of claim 1 can be found, for example, in original claims 2, page 45, line 14 through page 47, line 15, as well as in FIGS. 72, 75, and 76. Accordingly, no new matter is believed entered by this amendment.

No additional fees are believed necessitated by the present response. However, in the event of any fee deficiencies, or that additional fees are payable, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2121 as necessary.

Response to Restriction Requirement

Serial No.: 10/636,072

Response dated October 18, 2006

In reply to the restriction requirement mailed September 18, 2006

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Respectfully Submitted:

/Edmund P. Pfleger/

Edmund P. Pfleger

Attorney for Applicants

Reg. No. 41,252